



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**File No. 363**

Senate Bill No. 468

*Senate, April 19, 2001*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF COVERAGE FOR SMOKING CESSATION UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-278a of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The Commissioner of Social Services [may] shall amend the  
4 Medicaid state plan to provide coverage for treatment for smoking  
5 cessation ordered by a licensed physician to the extent permitted by  
6 federal law. Such coverage shall be limited to a maximum of four  
7 hundred dollars per person per year.

8 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**HS** Joint Favorable

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Potential Significant Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Social Services

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to amend the state Medicaid plan to cover the cost of smoking cessation services.

There are approximately 95,000 adults receiving health services through Medicaid. Assuming that 25% of this population smokes, and 25% of these smokers will attempt to quit, the Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates that smoking cessation services could cost up to \$1.78 million annually. This assumes that each individual will average \$50 monthly of smoking cessation services for six months. The final cost will be dependent upon the level and duration of smoking cessation services that the commissioner proposes. Any such increased costs due to this change will be eligible for 50% reimbursement from the Federal government.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

SB 468

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF COVERAGE FOR  
SMOKING CESSATION UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires, rather than allows, the social services commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan to provide coverage for smoking cessation treatment ordered by a doctor, to the extent permitted by federal law. By law, coverage is limited to a maximum of \$400 per person per year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**BACKGROUND*****Medicaid Coverage for Smoking Cessation***

Medicaid covers smoking cessation drugs, but federal law (42 USC § 1396r-8 (d)) allows states to exclude them from Medicaid coverage. Otherwise, a state must cover the drugs if the state plan provides the coverage, a physician prescribes them, and the person seeking them is Medicaid-eligible. Medicaid will also pay for non-drug therapy, such as smoking cessation behavior modification counseling. For either treatment type, Medicaid will pay only if it is medically necessary for treating a particular diagnosis.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17      Nay 0